

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, JUNE 16, 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 – 5/27/25, 6/2/25

Don Adams made a motion to approve the May 27 Joint Commissioner/Council minutes, and June 2, 2025 minutes. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

CLERK’S REPORT

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

TIME OFF WITHOUT PAY

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that she received a request from a department head for an employee to request time off without pay. This would be unpaid days for medical reasons only. For a previous request, the Board of Commissioners allowed the supervisor to approve or disapprove the time off. The handbook allows the Commissioners to approve up to 10 days. Bryan Collier asked who picks up the slack when the employee takes off. Ms. Fry stated that the other employees pick up the slack. Bryan Collier stated that the elected official or department head are ultimately responsible for running their office and made a motion to approve the request to leave it up to the department head for medical reasons only. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

FUEL TANK REPLACEMENT

Anne Cowgur stated that the PEI Maintenance & Contracting Agreement has been amended to add “Exhibit A” the includes language regarding non-appropriation, e-verify, and non-discrimination. Don Adams made a motion to approve Addendum 6, which includes “Exhibit A”. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

OPIOID GRANT AGREEMENT TEMPLATE

Anne Cowgur stated that at a previous meeting, the Commissioners authorized certain distributions from the Opioid Fund. This grant agreement template is for the grantees to sign. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the Opioid Grant Agreement template. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

ENGAGEMENT LETTER – *Barnes & Thornburg*

Anne Cowgur stated that she has reviewed the letter and was good from a legal standpoint. Bryan Collier made a motion to sign the Engagement Letter with Barnes & Thornburg. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE 2025-7 - Rezone

Laura Parker, Morgan County Plan Director, requested approval of a rezone application from V3 Engineering for a 1.232-acre parcel in Gregg Township to be rezoned from AG to Residential 2. The Plan Commission Board voted 7-0 to forward a favorable recommendation. Don Adams made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-7 An Ordinance Rezoning Land within the Jurisdiction of Morgan County, Indiana. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

VOLT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the one-year Professional Services Agreement with Volt Strategies. The fees remain the same at \$4,166.66 per month. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – *Health Department*

Tricia Runnigen, Morgan County Health Department Director, was present to request approval of a MOU with Adult and Child Services. They do a lot of mental health work in schools. The Health Department has been providing some funding since the 2022-2023 school year. They are integrated in Monrovia, Mooresville and Martinsville. They also provide the Catch My Breath program regarding vaping. As well as working with students, they also work with parents and staff. Don Adams made a motion to approve the MOU. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

APRIL 21, 2025 MINUTES CORRECTION

Kenny Hale stated that in the April 21, 2025 minutes, the spelling of “Dunfee” was wrong and Ms. Dunfee made a statement about “eight government entities” and she meant to say “two government entities”. Bryan Collier made a motion to amend the April 21, 2025 minutes. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

PARK BOARD DISCUSSION

Don Adams stated that the Board had discussed what steps to take to form a Park Board that complies with Indiana Code 36-10-3-3. Mr. Adams felt that they should revisit that and asked if the current park board is statutorily correct. Bryan Collier stated that the Board of Commissioners can function over a department. Anne Cowgur stated that if the Board of Commissioners would like to establish a park board, she could advise them on the steps to do that. Indiana Code 36-10-3-4.2(g) states that “the board membership shall not consist of . . . a county executive”. The Commissioners can oversee the parks as a department, but can not be a park board. Kenny Hale noted that after December 31, 2019, there was no ordinance for the establishment of a park board; only the county commissioners were authorized to create the park board. Bryan Collier stated that he thought it would behoove the Commissioners to divest themselves of this responsibility and have a park board. Mr. Collier would like to see five members on the board, with the members having a track record relating to parks. The board would need to understand that the director and park employees would be county employees and would have to follow labor laws. Don Adams noted that IC code states that there are two members appointed by the Board of Commissioners, two are appointed by the County Council and one appointment by an elected official, but does not define what office. After further discussion, it was agreed that the Board of Commissioners would come up with three possible elected officials. Anne Cowgur stated that they would need to draft an ordinance. Bryan Collier made a motion to table the discussion. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Bryan Collier noted that January 1st is on a Thursday and asked who would come to work on that Friday. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the schedule, but that there could be a change after the budget workshops. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Don Adams stated that he was in Marion County today and got caught in traffic. Mr. Adams praised the beauty and peacefulness that they are blessed with in Morgan County.

Bryan Collier read findings from the engineer in 1922 as follows:

“FINDING OF THE ENGINEER AND VIEWERS, find that no damage on account of the construction of said highway will accrue to any minor, idiot, or lunatic.”

Mr. Collier stated that the Board has had a lot more sensitivity training.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Kenny Hale

Attest:

Bryan A. Collier

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Don Adams