

THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025 AT 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: KIM MERIDETH, VICKIE KIVETT, TROY SPRINKLE, CHIP KELLER, 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. MELISSA GREENE WAS ABSENT.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

PRAYER (*Vickie Kivett*)

**Treasurer's Report/Clerk's Report**

Kim Merideth recognized the June Treasurer's Report and Clerk's Report.

**Minutes**

Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the July 7, 2025 minutes. Motion seconded by Joe Crone. Motion carried 6-0. (Melissa Greene was not present.)

**Commissary Report**

Kim Merideth acknowledged receipt of the Sheriff's Commissary Report.

**Additional Appropriations:**

• *EMS*

Brent Worth, Morgan County EMS Director, stated that they sold an old ambulance through Enterprise for \$15,075.00 and they would like to appropriate this amount from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (1138) into 1138.49002.00000.0301 (Ambulance Lease/Purchase) to use towards the purchase of a new ambulance as discussed at the previous meeting. Brian Culp made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as presented. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 6-0.

• *Commissioners*

Josh Messmer requested an additional appropriation of \$210,183.56 from the Rainy Day Fund (1186) into Account #1186.44050.00000.0068 (Monroe Twp EMS Station). Mr. Messmer stated they negotiated with the developer for Westpoint and they are paying the county quarterly. This allows the county to front the payment out of the Rainy Day Fund until they receive the payment each quarter. Brian Culp asked why they were requesting the funds now, and not waiting until the payment. Mr. Messmer replied that the project is under construction and will be built before all the funds are received. Linda Pruitt stated that the balance in the Rainy Day Fund is approximately \$12 mil. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Messmer stated that the county leases the Reporter-Times Building, which houses the Prosecutor's Office and Title IV-D. As part of the long-term plans for the space needs assessment, the plan has been to acquire the building and move the Health Department into this building, and possibly the employee clinic, when the Prosecutor and Title IV-D move into the Judicial Campus. The owner of the Reporter-Times Building set a price of approximately \$1.49 million during COVID. Exercising this option now would save the county approximately in lease payments. Mr. Messmer requested an additional appropriation of \$1,500,000 from the Rainy Day Fund (1186) into Account #1186.40002.00000.0068 (Property Acquisition). Vickie Kivett noted that this was a 10-year lease. Mr. Messmer stated that they are in year five. Discussion ensued regarding leases, insurance and space needs. Kim Merideth stated that she would hate to see the county pass on something that in five years they regretted. Bryan Collier stated that per the lease, the county is paying for insurance coverage and repairs anyway, so why not accept the opportunity and own it. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 6-0.

**Salary Ordinance Amendment**

Steve Sonnega, Morgan County Prosecutor, stated that this is not a request for additional money, it is to allow an employee to stay and train a new hire. They would like to move \$10,000 from a part time deputy prosecutor line to increase the hourly pay to \$54.31 per hour. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the amendment. Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried

**Resolution 2025-8-4 – Transfer Dormant Funds**

Linda Pruitt stated that they are no longer using the 4915 PSAP Personnel Fund. The fund has a balance of \$484.23 and would like to transfer this to the LIT Dedicated to PSAP Fund (1235) so they can close out the 4915 Fund. Chip Keller made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-8-4, A Resolution to Transfer Dormant Funds. Motion seconded by Joe Crone. Motion carried 6-0.

**Sycamore Services**

LaDonna Everroad, COO, and Kate Renneker, HR Generalist, were present to inform the Council of the services they provide Morgan County. Ms. Everroad stated that they offer a variety of services to individuals who are aged or disabled, such as respite services, recreational therapy, residential and wellness services, employment services, behavioral management and public transportation. They impact the lives of over 1,600 individuals in 37 counties in Indiana. They support individuals to increase their independence and allow them to live, work and contribute to their communities. They are facing some barriers and the gaps limit their ability to hire and retain qualified staff, to provide essential supplies, equipment and transportation, which ultimately affects the quality of care to their clients. They offer a day program that provides structured activities that build life skills and independence for those that they serve. Respite care provides essential relief for a primary caregiver and community integration helps individuals make friends, volunteer to give back to the community and engage with the world around them. They currently have 30 people in their Morgan County day program. Twenty in the recreational therapy program, 20 individuals in the residential program and 10 in the behavioral management services program. Morgan County Connect provides public transportation for residents in the community. On a monthly basis, they provide approximately 1,564 trips for 164 riders or community members (such as transportation). Ms. Renneker asked that the Council continue their funding support.

**Copier Discussion**

Josh Messmer stated that if the Council would like to move forward in obtaining new copiers, the amount would be included as part of the normal budget process and they wouldn't pay until next year. The copiers are out of the service contract and Deb Verley and Mr. Messmer met with Ricoh just to get a budget number. The amount came in at just shy of \$160,000 to replace the fleet, but they were able to request special pricing and revised the quote to \$153,000, plus they will buy back the used copiers to use for parts, which makes the total \$149,000. When the copiers were purchased five years ago, the cost was \$141,000 for 50 copiers. This purchase was expected to occur soon, so Mr. Messmer suggested approving the purchase to lock in the price and move forward next year. Service and toner is included in the agreement. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the copier purchase. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 6-0.

**Countywide Unkept Properties Discussion**

Bill Mitchell, Clay Township Trustee, handed out pictures of several properties that are eyesores. All the properties have been written up by the Plan Commission, but no improvements have been made. Kim Merideth asked how they could help. Mr. Mitchell stated that that he has been writing these properties up for five or six years, but is told that the Plan Commission does not have the money or the manpower to resolve the situation. Mr. Mitchell stated that citizens living next to these properties are upset that property taxes have gone up and nothing gets done. Mr. Mitchell stated that the upset citizens take it out on the employees in the Assessor and Treasurer Office's. Mr. Mitchell stated that the property on Henderson Ford has spread onto county property and nothing is being done. Chip Keller stated that there were similar issues when he served on the city council and it took a concerted effort and the fiscal and executive at the time to empower and hire a code enforcement officer and they also had to beef up some ordinances. The City of Martinsville now has an unsafe building authority. This does take funds and personnel to enforce. Mr. Mitchell stated that the laws are on the books and the personnel are in place, it's just not getting done.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Kim Merideth noted that budget reviews are August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Budget Workshop is August 11, 12 and 14<sup>th</sup>. The next regular meeting is September 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment**

Brian Culp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 6-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Kim, Merideth  
Kim Merideth

Vickie Kivett  
Vickie Kivett

Troy Sprinkle

Walt Cr. VCS

Chip Keller

Melissa Greene  
Melissa Greene

Brian Culp  
Brian Culp

Joe Crone  
Joe Crone

ATTEST:

Linda Pruitt  
Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor