

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025 AT 9:30 A.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

Don Adams made a motion to approve the September 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the October 10, and 24, 2025 payroll claims of \$923,643.21 and \$928,079.20; PERF \$80,678.69 and \$81,905.33; FICA \$66,819.29 and \$67,209.12; and monthly claims of \$2,148,334.84. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

ROAD USE AGREEMENT – *AES*

Gregory Ellis, AES Eagle Valley Plant Manager, and manager for the closure of ash ponds for AES and Amy McClure, AES, were present to discuss the closure of the ash ponds. They are currently closing A, B and C and will follow with D and E. The ponds closure should complete in 2027. The hauling work should wrap up by the first quarter or second quarter of next year. There will be a second phase to close ponds D and E that will have similar requirements and will follow after closure of A, B and C in 2027. They are committed to returning the roads to good condition when the project is complete. Bryan Collier stated that he has received several calls regarding dump trucks on Maple Turn. Kenny Hale stated that he has also received calls regarding truck traffic on Maple Turn and there are wider roads that are an option. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the road use agreement. Motion seconded by Don Adams.

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, noted that the current agreement is the Maple Turn route; however, the agreement provides for repairs to the road. Mr. Ellis stated that with the second phase, they will stipulate that Maple Turn is not an option. The first phase did not stipulate that, and the bids they received were based on that route. Ms. McClure stated that if the weather cooperates, they should be done by January. Bryan Collier rescinded his motion. Don Adams rescinded his second.

Mr. Schneck stated that there will be a similar agreement in place before they start the second phase, but it will have a different haul route. The agreement states that AES will repair the road; Mr. Schneck stated that with no agreement, there is no legal requirement to repair the road. Bryan Collier reinstated his motion to approve the Road Use agreement in the spirit of getting the road fixed. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Eddie Fisher, Morgan County Highway Superintendent, suggested that repairs start quickly, before asphalt plants close. Bill Mitchell, Morgan County resident, noted that the trucks weren't being weighed and asked if there would be a load limit on Maple Turn. Motion carried 2-1. Kenny Hale was opposed.

AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT – *Bridge 68*

Justin Schneck stated that this is an amendment to a contract that the Board signed last January. Part of the project was relocating of a water main. The second page of Attachment B states that INDOT will be responsible for reimbursing the utility for work; this should be Morgan County. Don Adams made a motion to approve the amendment. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

BOT IV AGREEMENT

Bryan Collier stated that he is excited to present the start of BOT IV, which is the final phase of the renovation project. This phase is the renovation of the Administration Building that will complete the Judicial Campus. Mr. Collier stated that there are some immediate issues that need to be addressed with the building.

Eric Ratts, DLZ, and Will Tiebout, Meyer Najem, were present to give an update. Mr. Tiebout stated that the historic Courthouse is moving well, Washington Street will be one way this week in order to get stone, asphalt base and hopefully binder as well. Striping and signage are scheduled for Morgan and Main this week. They will pull the fence back after light poles are up. Demolition is almost complete on the inside of the building and interior partitions are going up.

Mr. Ratts stated that new historically accurate windows are going in, the roof is going on and they are cleaning brick.

BOT IV for the Administration Building will start in spring of 2027 and will be finished by the end of 2028. They will be replacing all the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and new finishes throughout. The upper level will be for the Prosecutor and Title IV-D. Don Adams stated that after touring last week, they weren't too early to do the project; this is being done for future generations. Mr. Ratts stated that they will be meeting with the occupants of the building and will have the drawings done by fall, contracts will be finalized and construction will begin spring of 2027. Bryan Collier made a motion to adopt and move forward with BOT Phase IV. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

Bryan Collier noted that property taxes are due in a few weeks and they should not have to issue bonds for this phase of the project. It will be close, but they are trying to use available funds. For a house assessed at \$500,000 the excess levies cost \$20.64 per month. It is not conservative to take capital projects of this magnitude, pass it down generation after generation and expect grandkids to pay for it.

RESOLUTION – *Judicial Campus Security Plan*

Dave Rogers, Morgan County Jail Commander, was present to request approval of the Judicial Campus Security Plan. Once the plan is in place, they will do some group trainings. Anne Cowgur noted that they did not have the final version and once that is received, they can draft a resolution. Bryan Collier made a motion to table the security plan. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Don Adams mentioned the ability to have a locker for those that forget to leave their pocket knives in the vehicle. Mr. Rogers stated that he would look into that. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION 2025-11-3 – *2026 Bond Bank Fuel Program*

Linda Pruitt stated that this program is not intended to be a money maker for the county, but is more of an insurance policy against rising fuel costs. In 2024, the county received \$860. Kenny Hale noted that he did not see any changes in the agreement from the prior year. Don Adams made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-11-3 A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County, Indiana, Authorizing the Participation of Said County in the Motor Fuel Budgeting Program of the Indiana Bond Bank for the 2026 Budget Year, the Execution of the Qualified Entity Reimbursement Agreement in Connection Therewith and Other Related Matters. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE 2025-14 – *Retail Food Establishment Ordinance*

Tricia Runnigen, Morgan County Health Department Director, and Elizabeth Young, Morgan County Health Department, were present to request approval of the revised Morgan County Retail Food Establishment and/or Bed and Breakfast Establishment Ordinance and revised Ordinance Establishing Fees for the Morgan County Health Department. Ms. Runnigen stated that in May of 2025, Indiana Administrative Code was revised to replace the old code that had not been updated for 20 years. They are changing to a risk level-based plan instead of requirements based on number of employees. This change could generate an additional \$20,000 to \$30,000 in revenue. There are over 400 food establishments in the county. Ms. Young stated that a risk level 1 would be a gas station with grab and go type foods; risk level 2 would be like fast food restaurants where food is cooked and served; risk level 3 is more of a steak house setting where foods are prepped, cooked and served. The Health Department spends more time in establishments that heat, cool, and reheat foods. The ordinance would go into effect immediately upon passage. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-14, Retail Food Establishment Ordinance and waive the second reading. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE 2025-15 – *Health Dept Fees*

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-15 An Ordinance Establishing Fees for the Morgan County Health Department and to waive the second reading. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

GRANT APPLICATION – *Health Dept*

Ms. Runnigen stated that they just found out about this grant last week. It was due on Saturday. The Indiana Department of Health stated that they can have a partner in the community apply on their behalf, so the YMCA is actually the applicant for this \$10,000 injury-prevention grant. The grant will provide free swimming lessons for 100 second graders in Morgan County and free transportation to the YMCA. Injury-related deaths are the leading cause of death for children in Indiana and they are looking at swimming lessons and safe to sleep classes to reduce injuries.

DONATION FUND - *Sheriff*

Sheriff Richard Myers noted that the locker that was mentioned as a place for pocket knives would

also need to be approved by the Board of Judges. If they say they want the whole building to be weapon-free, but knives are in a locker, they will be in violation of their ruling. It could also cause a liability issue if someone puts a knife in the locker and it ends up missing.

Sheriff Myers stated that in order to promote the K-9 program, they have shirts that were donated by a veterinarian clinic in Monrovia. People can click on a QR code and buy a shirt through S&S Custom Apparel. They handle the funds and donate the money to the Sheriff's Office to a fund that is already established. The Council appropriates the fund and it is used to promote the K-9 program.

CORONER COOLER QUOTES – *Maintenance Dept*

Tommy Bunton, Morgan County Maintenance Director, was present to seek approval to move forward with a cooler at the Coroner's Office. Mr. Bunton received three quotes: Economy \$93,130.00; HCCI \$70,125.00; and Integrity \$70,634.00. Mr. Bunton recommended using Integrity Mechanical LLC as they are a mechanical contractor and they included things in their quote that others missed (removal of a fence, additional slab poured at the entryway) and start up time is sooner. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the quote from Integrity Mechanical LLC. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Mr. Hale noted that it is a 12'X12' cooler and they've needed one for some time. Motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SOP

Eddie Fisher, Morgan County Highway Department Superintendent, presented an SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for a tardiness policy. Mr. Fisher stated this policy is to ensure consistency across the board for all employees at the Highway Department. The policy has been reviewed by HR and the county attorney. Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that EMS uses a similar policy. Don Adams made a motion to approve the SOP. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

MOTOROLA LEASE

Zach Worth, Morgan County 911 Director, stated that this agreement is to further the project to get on the same CAD system as Mooresville dispatch. They are currently on the same system; this is one step in working better together. Anne Cowgur has reviewed the lease. Don Adams made a motion to approve the lease. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

TORT CLAIM

Bryan Collier made a motion to submit the Brust tort claim to insurance. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION 2025-11-3B - *TITLE VI – 2026-2029 Goals & 2025 Accomplishments*

Daree Fry stated that these are updated from the previous plan. One of the goals and accomplishments was finishing the new Judicial Center and the ability of the website to be translated into over 70 languages. Don Adams made a motion to approve Resolution 225-11-3B A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County, Indiana Approving Updated Title VI Implementation Plan. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Don Adams stated that it is always good to see things that make the future brighter for future grandchildren and BOT IV is part of that.

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