

Morgan County Commissioners 1/5/26

Meeting minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The January 5, 2026 Morgan County Commissioners Meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM in Martinsville, IN. All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer.

NEW BUSINESS

Reorganization

The Board conducted its annual reorganization of leadership. Commissioner Don Adams was nominated as Chair for the upcoming year.

Kenny Hale made a motion to appoint Don Adams as Chair. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bryan Collier was then nominated to serve as Vice Chair.

Kenny Hale made a motion to appoint Bryan Collier as Vice Chair. Don Adams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Don Adams thanked the Board and noted that their practice of rotating leadership positions, which began approximately four years ago, has been beneficial to the Board's operations.

Minutes – 11/17/25, 12/1/25, 12/15/25

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the minutes from November 17, December 1, and December 15, 2025. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Claims

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve payroll and accounts payable claims totaling \$9,320,590.77. The motion was seconded by Kenny Hale and carried 3-0.

Grant Application – Court Services

Miranda Beauchamp from Court Services requested approval to apply for the Juvenile Community Corrections Grant from the Indiana Department of Corrections. The grant would run from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, covering the statutorily required juvenile intake officer position. Beauchamp noted this is an ongoing grant that Court Services has managed for decades with no county matching funds required.

Commissioner Collier expressed concern about potential state-level funding cuts that could impact grants, referencing Senate Enrolled Act 1 and discussions about eliminating property and income taxes. He emphasized the importance of monitoring these grants carefully to ensure programs continue to function effectively.

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the application for the Juvenile Community Corrections Grant not to exceed \$190,000. The motion was seconded by Kenny Hale and carried 3-0.

Conflicts of Interest

The Board acknowledged receipt of conflict of interest statements from two individuals. No further action was required.

Engineering Service Contracts

The Board considered three engineering service contracts to provide services while the county engineer position remains vacant.

Kenny Hale made a motion to enter into engineering service contracts with Egis BLN USA, Banning Engineering, and HWC Engineering. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

CSI Agreement – Recorder's Office

Anna Voyles, County Recorder, presented the annual agreement with Computer Systems Inc. (CSI), the software provider for the Recorder's Office. Voyles explained that CSI provides software, microfilm services, technical support, and disaster recovery services for the office's recording system. She noted the agreement had not been signed by the Commissioners since 2023, and CSI was requesting their signatures on this year's contract.

Kenny Hale made a motion to enter into the contract with Computer Systems Inc. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Purdue Extension Annual Agreement

Rena Sheldon presented the annual Purdue Extension agreement in the amount of \$136,670. She explained that Purdue provides training, health and retirement benefits for educators, and internet and technology services. Sheldon highlighted a recent achievement where Rachel Piney has begun providing serve-safe training in Morgan County, which had previously required residents to travel outside the county.

Commissioner Adams acknowledged the long history of Purdue Extension's service to the county dating back to 1914, particularly noting the positive impact on youth. Commissioner Collier emphasized his support for the program as a valuable use of tax dollars that helps educate youth and potentially prevents future issues.

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the Purdue Extension Annual Agreement. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Morgan County Chaplains Agreement

The Board voted to table this item until George Watkins, who oversees the chaplains program, could be present to speak on the agreement.

Bryan Collier moved to table the Morgan County Chaplains Agreement. The motion was seconded by Kenny Hale and carried 3-0.

Highway Bonds

Eddie Fisher, Highway Superintendent, requested the Commissioners release a performance bond and accept a maintenance bond for Country View Estates off of Orchard Road. Fisher indicated that inspections had been completed and everything looked good.

Kenny Hale made a motion to release the performance letter of credit and replace it with the maintenance bond letter of credit #331481. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS/TABLED

Appointments

The Board made multiple appointments to various county boards and commissions:

Community Corrections Board:

Bryan Collier made a motion to appoint Christina Lewis and Brent Fultz to the Community Corrections Board. The motion was seconded by Kenny Hale and carried 3-0.

Local Alcohol Beverage Board:

Bryan Collier made a motion to reappoint Howard McCormick to the Local Alcohol Beverage Board. The motion was seconded by Kenny Hale and carried 3-0.

Tax Board of Appeals:

Bryan Collier made a motion to reappoint Linda Bryant and Jan Stroud to the Tax Board of Appeals. The motion was seconded by Kenny Hale and carried 3-0.

Economic Development Corporation Board:

Kenny Hale made a motion to appoint Terry Brock and Bryan Collier to the Economic Development Corporation Board. Don Adams seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Redevelopment Commission Board:

Don Adams made a motion to appoint Jeff Pitkin, Brad Shields, Carol Snyder, and Dr. Jake Allen to the Redevelopment Commission Board. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Convention Visitors Tourism Commission:

Don Adams made a motion to appoint Jamie Thompson and Joe Tutterrow to the Convention Visitors Tourism Commission. The motion was seconded by Kenny Hale and carried 3-0.

Morgan County Public Library Board:

Bryan Collier made a motion to reappoint Chet Cromer to the Morgan County Public Library Board. The motion was seconded by Kenny Hale and carried 3-0.

Morgan County Planning Commission:

Kenny Hale made a motion to reappoint Jason Maxwell to the Morgan County Planning Commission. Don Adams seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The Board also appointed Kyle Swalls (County Administrator) to several positions:

Bryan Collier made a motion to appoint Kyle Swalls to the Opioid Settlement Board, Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council, Job Classification Maintenance Committee, and Downtown Revitalization Committee. The motion was seconded by Kenny Hale and carried 3-0.

Additional appointments included:

Bryan Collier made a motion to appoint Abby Worth as EMA Director. Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bryan Collier made a motion to appoint Anne Cowgur as County Attorney. Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Fiber Transfer Agreement

This item remained tabled until January 20th as previously decided.

OTHER BUSINESS

Purchasing Agents

The Board acknowledged receipt of the list of purchasing agents for Morgan County Government for 2026. Linda Pruitt noted that the county is in the process of establishing a countywide Amazon business account to improve efficiency and eliminate the need for using the county credit card for these purchases.

Request to Fill Position

The Board approved forwarding a request to fill the Veteran Service Officer position to the County Council.

Kenny Hale made a motion to forward the letter to the County Council to replace the Veteran Service Officer for the county. Don Adams seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

During public comments, Stan Diamond, who serves as a supervisor on the Soil and Water Conservation District, offered to provide the Commissioners with information on the White River Water Basin. As a retired civil environmentalist, Diamond volunteered his expertise and requested an opportunity to give a 30-45 minute presentation at the Commissioners' convenience.

Kenny Hale provided a brief update on park projects, noting that the Delaney House at Old Town Waverly Park is expected to open as a conference center by mid-year.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:55 AM with Bryan Collier making a motion to adjourn and Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Don Adams

Attest:

Bryan A. Collier

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Kenny Hale