

Morgan County Commissioners

1/20/26

Meeting minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Don Adams welcomed everyone to the Morgan County Commissioners meeting. Kenny Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a silent prayer.

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk's Report

The clerk's report was presented and acknowledged without questions or comments.

Board of Finance

Reorganization

Treasurer Dan Bastin explained that the first order of business was to reorganize the Board of Finance by appointing a president and secretary. After some discussion about the positions, Commissioner Don Adams was nominated to serve as president.

Bryan Collier moved to appoint Don Adams as the president of the Board of Finance.

Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dan Bastin was then nominated to serve as secretary.

Bryan Collier moved to appoint Dan Bastin as the secretary of the Board of Finance.

Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports/Investment Policy

Treasurer Dan Bastin presented a detailed report on interest earned in 2025. He reported that the county earned \$1,043,255.71 in interest from First Merchants bank accounts, \$282,204 from Home Bank accounts, \$364.39 from Citizens Bank, and \$203.56 from BMO. The total interest earned from bank accounts was \$1,826,027.66, with an additional \$225,981.92 allocated to the Redevelopment Commission from the First Merchants interest.

Bastin further reported that the county earned \$3,224,639.16 from certificates of deposit, bringing the total interest earned in 2025 to \$5,276,648.74. He noted that interest rates have been decreasing, with current certificates earning around 3.9%, compared to previous rates of 4.7% and 4.4%. He expressed concern that 2026 would likely see significantly lower interest earnings due to declining rates.

Commissioner Collier observed that this would result in approximately \$1.2 million less in interest earnings for the county. He explained that as the county completes major renovation projects, including the current administration building, there would be less funds available to invest. He highlighted how the county had strategically invested bond proceeds for projects like the judicial center over the past few years, which had generated significant interest earnings and helped avoid raising property taxes for the final building renovation.

VSO Briefing – Josh Tolan

Josh Tolan from the state Veterans Service Office (VSO) reported on the implementation of Indiana Code 10-17-1-9 (formerly 4-33), which established standardized accreditation for county veteran service officers. He praised Morgan County's VSO office for "leading the pack" in meeting these standards, noting they have all the required technology, training, and facilities to properly serve veterans.

Commissioner Adams inquired about how much benefit the VSO brings to the county. While Tolan didn't have specific figures at hand, he mentioned that veterans from surrounding counties like Hendricks, Monroe, and Brown often come to Morgan County for services due to its excellent reputation. Commissioners expressed appreciation for the service provided to veterans while noting the need to track how many out-of-county residents are being served, as Morgan County taxpayers fund the office.

Microvote Maintenance Agreement

Tammy Parker, County Clerk, presented the Micro Voting System Maintenance Agreement for approval. The agreement extends through December 31, 2029, at a cost of \$15,000 per year, which has been budgeted. The maintenance includes software upgrades, technical support, firmware updates, and other services for the county's voting equipment.

Parker also mentioned that early voting information for the upcoming election would be determined at a meeting on January 29th, with locations likely to include Mooresville, Martinsville, and Monrovia on Saturdays.

Bryan Collier moved to approve the 2026 Infinity Voting System Annual Maintenance Agreement. Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding Addendums – Health Dept

Tricia Runnigen from the Health Department presented five addendums to previously approved Memorandums of Understanding. She explained that these addendums were needed because some grantees had exceeded their projected timelines but still had funds available from their original awards. The addendums would allow them to continue their projects through early 2026 while staying within their approved award amounts.

Four of the addendums were for grantees through Health First Indiana, and one was for Nurses Direct Connect, which provides prescriber services for the department's STI program. Runnigen provided documentation showing the original MOUs, addendums, and current spend-down status for each agreement.

Commissioner Adams expressed appreciation for the collaborative language in the MOUs, highlighting the importance of working together to serve the community.

Kenny Hale moved to approve the memorandum of understanding addendums for St. Francis Health Foundation Inc., Barbara Jordan YMCA (two separate MOUs), Peace Restored Inc., and Ashley Mellon for Nursing Direct Connect. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RFI – Mail Management Services

Kyle Swalls presented a request to publish a Request for Information (RFI) for mail management services. He explained that the goal was to gather information from vendors to potentially save money through county-wide mail management services. The RFI would be published on January 29th, and no contract would be awarded directly from this process.

Bryan Collier moved to accept the request for information to be sent out on January 29th. Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RFP – Recycling Center

Kyle Swalls presented a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the collection, transportation, and processing of recyclable materials from a new recycling site planned to open in Centerton in spring 2026. The RFP would seek partners to service the new county-wide recycling location.

Bryan Collier moved to send out the request for proposals for the collection, transportation, and processing of recyclable materials. Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lochmueller Group Agreement

Commissioner Adams presented an agreement with Lochmueller Group to provide engineering services for the highway department on a contract basis, as the county currently does not have an engineer. This would be similar to agreements with other engineering firms that the county has approved.

The commissioners noted that the rate sheet was not included in their packets, although Commissioner Hale mentioned having seen it previously.

Bryan Collier moved to table the agreement until the rate sheet could be reviewed. Don Adams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Annual Statement of Receipts and Expenditures

Auditor Linda Pruitt presented the annual statement of receipts and expenditures. She reported that the county's beginning balance as of January 1, 2025, was \$105,513,915.68. Receipts totaled \$281,722,625.36, and expenditures totaled \$279,605,563.02, resulting in an ending balance of \$107,630,978.02. She also noted that the total payroll for the county's approximately 400 employees was \$24,398,734.61.

Bryan Collier moved to accept the annual statement of receipts and expenditures as presented by the auditor. Don Adams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

IMPO Appointment and Letter

Commissioner Adams discussed his appointment to represent the county on the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (IMPO) Transportation Policy Committee. He explained that part of the county falls within the metropolitan area, and participation in the IMPO could help secure funding for projects and influence policy decisions affecting the distribution of funds.

Kenny Hale moved to appoint Don Adams to the IMPO with Kyle Swalls as his proxy. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Annual Agreements

The commissioners reviewed several annual agreements that provide services funded through the commissioner's budget.

Kenny Hale moved to approve the 2026 agreements for Morgan County Connect (\$47,000), Sycamore Services (\$54,000), Morgan County Fairgrounds (\$150,000), and Morgan County Soil and Water (\$67,050). Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lisa MacPhee from Soil and Water Conservation District provided an update on their activities, including expanded youth education programs, environmental education at libraries, and stream monitoring programs with community volunteers. She invited the commissioners and public to attend their annual meeting on February 19th, which would include a presentation on the county's aquifer survey findings.

Conflict of Interest

Sandra Osborn from the Mooresville Public Library presented a conflict of interest disclosure for the commissioners' appointee to their library board, who works as a vice president at a bank where the library has checking and savings accounts.

Bryan Collier moved to accept the conflict of interest disclosure. Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS/TABLED

Appointments and Appointment Letter

Kyle Swales presented a standardized letter that would be sent to all board and committee appointees to improve collaboration and communication about expectations.

Bryan Collier moved to adopt the standardized letter to inform board appointees about expectations. Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners then made several appointments to various boards:

Kenny Hale moved to reappoint Susan Fries to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Kenny Hale moved to reappoint Dr. Gary Midla and Dr. Diana Catt to the Board of Health. Don Adams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Kenny Hale moved to reappoint Lisa Raufeison and Steve Atkins to the Harrison Township Fire District Board. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bryan Collier moved to reappoint Ginny Brown, Candace Carter, and Joe Gaunt to the Community Corrections Advisory Board. Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

For the Opioid Settlement Work Group, the commissioners approved several appointments:

Bryan Collier moved to appoint Eric Christensen (replacing Summer Brown as EMS rep), Kirk Witt (representing Mooresville Town Council), and Dr. Jake Allen (representing Mooresville School District) to the Opioid Settlement Work Group. Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Kenny Hale moved to appoint Wendy McGowan as Dr. Jake Allen's proxy on the Opioid Settlement Work Group. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Fiber Transfer Agreement

Kyle Swalls explained that Martinsville Schools wished to transfer fiber optic cable that runs to a tower on Lincoln Hill Road to the county at no charge. The Martinsville School Board had passed a resolution on January 15th, and the commissioners were asked to approve a matching resolution.

Kenny Hale moved to approve Resolution 2026-1-20 approving the agreement for the transfer of fiber optics infrastructure from the Metropolitan School District of Martinsville to Morgan County. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2026 Chaplin Agreement

George Watkins, Executive Director of the Morgan County Chaplains, provided an overview of the services his organization provides to first responders, including the coroner's office and dispatch. He explained that they offer physical, emotional, and spiritual support during traumatic events, helping both first responders and citizens involved with first responder calls.

Watkins described how chaplains often provide immediate triage assistance on-scene and then follow up with ongoing support, sometimes for years afterward. He mentioned that in the past year, they had provided over \$10,000 in financial assistance for various needs, including funerals, doctor's appointments, and counseling. He also introduced their newest team member, Tucker, an emotional support dog who provides comfort to dispatchers and first responders.

Commissioners expressed deep appreciation for the vital services the chaplains provide to the community during times of crisis.

Kenny Hale moved to approve the Chaplain Service Professional Agreement for 2026. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tort Claims

Two tort claims were presented for the commissioners' consideration.

Bryan Collier moved to send the Hicks and Lee claims to the county's insurance carrier. Kenny Hale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Historic Courthouse Brick Update

Commissioner Collier provided an update on the brick selection for the historic courthouse renovation. He clarified that contrary to social media posts, the county is not planning to paint the block sections red but will instead apply actual brick. He explained that matching the original bricks exactly is impossible, as there are already eight different brick colors throughout the building from various additions and changes over the years. The selected brick color will match the dominant color in the adjacent area of the building.

ADJOURNMENT

Kenny Hale moved to adjourn the meeting. Bryan Collier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Don Adams

Bryan A. Collier

Attest:

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Kenny Hale