

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021 AT 9:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE DON ADAMS, KENNY HALE AND BRYAN COLLIER. DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; DAN BASTIN, COUNTY AUDITOR; AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE – Air Force Veteran and EMS Director Donnie Warren.

PRAYER – Don Adams.

**CLAIMS**

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the March 5, March 19, and April 1 payroll and monthly claims of \$2,857,664.06. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**PROCLAMATION**

911 Dispatch Director Scott Hamilton and Deputy Director Missy Franzmann were present to request approval of a proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week from April 11-17. Ms. Franzmann read the proclamation. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the proclamation. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Collier noted that the fire department had 8 or 9 runs within two hours the day before and thanked the dispatchers for the excellent job through all the chaos.

**GRANT APPLICATION** – *Sheriff*

Sheriff Rich Myers was present to request approval of a \$66,000 grant application for the FY 2022 CHIRP (Comprehensive Highway Injury Reduction Program) Grant through the Indiana criminal Justice Institute. Sheriff Myers stated that this includes the traffic safety enforcement grants such as \$40,000 for “Click It to Live It”, \$20,000 for DUI taskforce, and \$6,000 for administrative costs. This grant encompasses the Morgan County Traffic Partnership which includes the Sheriff’s Department, Martinsville Police Department and Mooresville Police Department. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**GRANT APPLICATION** - *EMA*

Mark Tumey, Morgan County EMA Director, requested approval of a \$575,312.50 10/01/2019 – 9/30/2024 Homeland Security Grant through IDHS. This grant would complete the county fiber internet project, purchase body cameras for all county officers, and license plate readers for the Sheriff’s Department. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Jeanne LaFary, Morgan County Health Department, stated that the contract for contact tracing ended on March 31<sup>st</sup>. They will be able to continue month by month without a contract if needed. Cases have declined and only one person is doing this now. The Council appropriated \$50,000 for this purpose and they have spent approximately half of it.

**MASK MANDATE DISCUSSION**

Don Adams shared a letter from Dr. Paul Broderick, the Morgan County Health Officer, which was issued after Governor Holcomb announced that the state mask mandate would be downgraded to a mask advisory on April 6<sup>th</sup>. In the letter, Dr. Broderick stated that he is in support of the Governor’s decision and would not impose a county-wide mask mandate. However, Dr. Broderick noted that it is important to maintain good hand hygiene, get tested if experiencing a respiratory illness, and isolate if appropriate.

Josh Messmer stated that he reached out to several elected officials and department heads and asked what the comfort level would be without masks. Most responses were that they were comfortable, some would elect to wear them and some would like to see the mandate extended for another month. Kenny Hale noted that Section 3 regarded county employees and paid time off. The provisions of prior ordinances remain in effect and employees are encouraged to be back at work and not telecommunicating. Josh Messmer stated that there has been concern about abuse of the two week COVID-19 leave by employees that have not used the leave. Mr. Messmer encouraged the Commissioners to revisit this in the future.

Bryan Collier asked that the ordinance be posted on the county website. Mr. Collier stated that only 54% of the people in the room were wearing their masks properly and asked that citizens of

Morgan County use common sense, wear a mask when needed and respect those that have not had the opportunity to receive their vaccinations.

Don Adams gave an example of two businesses that recently had several employees test positive. Mr. Adams noted that they are not out of the woods yet and they are trending upwards. Steve Lyday, Morgan County Health Preparedness Coordinator, stated that there are several models and it is hard to predict when it will end. The Health Department has provided approximately 8,500 vaccinations through the clinic. According to the Indiana Department of Health's website, Morgan County has 12,537 residents that are fully vaccinated, 17,598 that have the first dose, and 1,234 that have received the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine from out of county. The Health Department is working on a one-day mass clinic for 12,000 vaccines in one day with a follow-up in four weeks. Twenty percent of the county has been vaccinated; approximately 50% will probably refuse a vaccination. Mr. Lyday stated that he does not see it winding down until July.

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the Ordinance Modifying Various Restrictions Related to Public Health and Mitigating the Spread of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0. Kenny Hale made a motion to waive a second reading of the ordinance. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **MORGAN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER**

Vickie Kivett, Morgan County History Center and Museum, was present to request a \$20,000 additional appropriation from the Commissioners and that \$20,000 be budgeted each year to support the Morgan County History Center and Museum. Ms. Kivett stated that they are a 501(C)3 and have a dedicated group of volunteers. They have been able to locate at the former Blackstone house at 127 S Main Street in Martinsville. Since 2019 they have raised \$26,898, acquired \$10,101 in grants, and received \$4,300 in in-kind contributions and items. They have found the public to be enthusiastic about the venture. Johnson County has a museum that is co-owned with the Johnson County Historical Society and the county pays a full time staff with benefits along with maintenance and utilities. If they are granted the funds, they will continue fund raising and obtaining grants; receiving the funds from the county would allow them to focus on the exhibits and educational track rather than wonder where the next month's rent will come from. If approved, this request would go before the May 5<sup>th</sup> County Council. Don Adams thanked Darrel French for his hard work and stated that he was amazed at the support from the community. Kenny Hale made a motion to place this item in the budget and to approach the Council for the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0. Kenny Hale noted that Morgan County was only one of a handful of counties that did not have a history museum.

### **MORGAN COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL**

Barb Howe, Morgan County Substance Abuse Council, was present to outline the grants and expenses for April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 totaling \$64,242.28. Ms. Howe listed the expenses as follows:

Office supplies	\$100.00
Other supplies	200.00
MCSAC Contract – salaries	15,760.57
Haven Youth Center	2,840.85
Stability First – Magdalene House	5,000.00
Baptist Tabernacle – Reformers U	5,000.00
Wellspring – Homeward Bound	5,500.00
Martinsville Youth Development Center	5,000.00
PACE Task Force	16,060.57
MC Boys and Girls Club	4,500.00
Youth First	3,000.00
The Crossing	1,280.29

Ms. Howe stated that the Criminal Justice Institute collects countermeasure fees from the state. In 2020 they collected \$51,686.48 and the county had a roll-over amount of \$12,555.80. There are four areas of grants (administration, education, treatment, criminal justice) that open up in late December and go through early March. Ms. Howe stated that they should receive approval from the Criminal Justice Institute soon and will distribute the funds in May or June. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the grants. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **STATE ROAD 42 DETOUR**

Josh Messmer stated that there was an emergency closure of State Road 142 and local roads were used as an unofficial detour. INDOT submitted an agreement stated that if there is damage to those roads due to the increased traffic, they would reimburse the county. Bryan Collier made a

motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **SADLER ROOM WAIVER**

Jim Wisco stated that this waiver is for non-profit groups or employees that request the use of the Sadler Room for an event. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the Acknowledgement of Rules and Release of Liability Waiver. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **JOB DESCRIPTION UPDATES**

Josh Messmer stated that these descriptions are before the Board of Commissioners as they are directly under the Commissioners' supervision (HR, Executive Assistant, IT, and EMS). Other descriptions would go directly from the department head to the Council. If any changes are made, they would go back to WIS for approval, then to the Council for final approval. Bryan Collier stated that he has some questions regarding the descriptions and is not ready to approve them. Kenny Hale made a motion to table the job descriptions. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Dan Bastin stated that the approval process should include the report from the job maintenance committee. It was noted that this is all new and they will work on perfecting this process. Kenny Hale stated that he would like to review job performance evaluations before making a decision. Mr. Messmer stated that most departments don't do evaluations. Motion carried 3-0.

### **PTO POLICY MODIFICATION**

Josh Messmer presented a modification to the PTO policy. The current policy allows an employee to accumulate unlimited PTO, but only 30 days would be paid out upon termination. The proposed modification changes that to a maximum of 240 hours. Dan Bastin stated that this came about after an employee that normally works a 24-hour shift had to be paid out for 30 days of 24-hour shifts. Mr. Bastin stated that he thought the intent of the policy was an 8-hour shift. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the policy change to 240 hours. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Bryan Collier made a motion to waive a second reading. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

### **APPOINTMENT** – *CIRTA, Community Corrections Advisory Council*

Don Adams stated that the Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA) meets monthly. Mr. Adams has served on the board for several years. Bryan Collier made a motion to appoint Don Adams to the CIRTA Board. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

Kenny Hale made a motion to appoint Emily Lepore to the Community Corrections Advisory Board. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **COMMUNITY CROSSING BID AWARD**

Josh Messmer stated that he and Tony Hinkle have reviewed the bids from the previous meeting for the Community Crossings paving. E & B Paving was the overall low bidder. In the past, the road segments were awarded individually. INDOT stated that this is not the way it's meant to be done – it should be as one project. The total award is \$1,673,462.90. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the contract between Morgan County and E & B Paving. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **PARK RENTAL REQUEST**

Josh Messmer stated that DNR has requested the use of Burkhart Creek Park on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Kenny Hale stated that they should also provide a port-a-pot for this and the Weed Wrangle on the 17th. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request and include a port-a-pot. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Kenny Hale stated that Tracy Van Auken requested the use of the Town Square Gazebo for a graduation open house on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST**

Josh Messmer stated that EMA has a project for the installation of cameras, a new server, and items to support the camera technology and they need an additional appropriation of \$20,160 from the Council. IT, EMA, and the jail were awarded a grant of \$100,375 for this project, but the historical society has put additional stipulations on the work, which has driven the cost higher. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the additional appropriation letter. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **PARK RENTAL REQUEST**

Bryan Collier noted that they were asked to move the date of the Relay for Life event up a week.

This event was approved at the previous meeting. Kenny Hale made a motion to move the date up a week. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

Don Adams reminded everyone that there will be a Weed Wrangle at Waverly Park this coming Saturday and at Burkhart Creek Park on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a White River Cleanup this weekend and the blacksmith shop will be open.

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenny Hale

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan Collier