

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021 AT 6:30 P.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 – Navy Veteran Aaron Sheldon

PRAYER – Don Adams

**GRANT APPLICATION - EMA**

Mark Tumey, Morgan County EMA Director, (who addressed Mr. Adams and Mr. Hale as gentlemen and Mr. Collier as Bryan) was present to request approval of a \$4,000 Indiana Homeland Security Foundation grant that will be used to purchase a speed trailer for the Morgan County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Tumey stated that they are up by 28% for citations and 46% for vehicle accidents compared to January 1 through May 1 of last year. The cost of the unit is \$7,400 and the Sheriff's Department will pay the remainder. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Mr. Collier asked that it be noted in the minutes that Mr. Tumey made a joke so 100 years from now readers would note that although very dry, Mr. Tumey did make a funny at least once. Motion carried 3-0.

**ROAD NAME**

Sandy Mosier, Morgan County Plan Commission, proposed King Trail as a new private road in Jackson Township. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the road name. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**REZONE REQUEST**

Dale Coffey, attorney representing BRL Properties, stated that they have requested to rezone the property at 309 W. Union Street in Paragon from R4 to B3. Mr. Coffey stated that this was the former IGA and when the zoning was brought into county jurisdiction, it was brought in as R4 and use continued as a legal non-conforming use. When the use ceased, they would have to request a rezone or go before the Board of Zoning Appeals for a variance. The property is being purchased on contract by Robert Lee and he is not certain what the use will be at this time, but it will not be an R4 use. Mr. Lee is willing to concessions if the property would be rezoned to B3 and would not utilize the property for any industrial uses and would agree not to put a lounge/bar/tavern on the site. The Plan Commission voted 8-0 to recommend that the property not be rezoned. There are a wide variety of zoning uses surrounding the property that require a B3 zoning. Don Adams asked if the concessions were presented to the Plan Commission. Mr. Coffey stated that they were not. Mr. Adams stated that if there has been a change since it was presented to the Plan Commission Board, then it needs to go back to the board. Laura Parker, Morgan County Plan Commission Director, stated that the uses should be in the form of a written commitment and recommended that if uses are struck from the B3 classification, it should follow state statute and be presented to the Plan Commission for vetting. Then the Plan Commission can come back before the Board of Commissioners with a recommendation. Mr. Coffey stated that he would not have an objection to that. Bryan Collier made a motion to return the request to the Plan Commission to take action on the amended request. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANT AGREEMENT**

Josh Messmer stated that this is the second round of Community Crossings grant funds awarded for the spring of 2021, the first being the fall of 2020. The county was awarded the full \$1 million and this is the standard agreement that INDOT has all counties and cities sign in order to participate in Community Crossings. The next step is bid documents. Kenny Hale stated that there need to be three corrections – Hurricane Road needs to be Mosier Road, Deck Road should be Paragon Road, and Shore Drive should be North Shore Drive. Marvin “Sport” Whaley, Morgan County Highway Superintendent, stated that the state has the roads as presented on the list instead of how the county records show. There is a part of Country Club off of Old SR 67 that the state shows as paved last year. The board agreed to look into this. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the grant agreement. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**2022 PROPERTY INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Josh Messmer stated that in shopping around for property insurance quotes, Liberty Mutual came in at \$110,000 less than the current company, Travelers. This would require using IPEP for Worker's Comp because Travelers was not willing to underwrite Worker's Comp only. It is Mr.

Messmer's understanding that in the past, the county has had a good experience with IPEP. Travelers has provided great service for the county, especially the jail, and Jail Commander Dave Rogers and Sheriff Rogers are concerned that it is unknown if Liberty has experience with corrections. Mr. Messmer stated that if the Board would like to consider moving forward with Liberty, they could inquire about the level of service and risk mitigation with Liberty as what is currently being experienced with Travelers. The county's insurance broker, Steve McConnell, stated that he was comfortable with both companies and thought they could not go wrong with either company. Both firms were willing to absorb some of the flood coverage and this saved \$65,000. Dave Rogers stated that he has not found any case law for Liberty Mutual but they are willing to try it. He would like to know what other facilities they insure. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the quote from Liberty contingent upon addressing the concerns of the Jail Commander and to authorize Mr. Messmer to convey the decision to Morgan Insurance Group. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **ROAD PATCHING & REPAIR PROJECTS**

Josh Messmer stated that there are several pending patching and repair projects and the Highway Department has requested quotes for them. Mr. Messmer asked that the Board have a special meeting on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm to open the quotes. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the projects as outlined in the packet (Country Club Rd., Milhon Center Dr., Bray Rd., Runnymede Ct., Ablington Ct., and Mann Rd.) and allow Mr. Messmer to open the quotes at 3pm on May 19<sup>th</sup> and award them to the low bidder. Marvin Whaley stated that some of the repairs are due to the I-69 traffic project. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Collier asked if there is a contingency plan if the I-69 construction is behind. If the county roads have to go through another winter under the current conditions, there will be even more damage. Mr. Collier has not had a lot of communication from INDOT and is concerned about the condition the roads will be in if there is a delay. He is getting calls every day about trucks on Egbert and Centennial and speeding. People are getting frustrated and he feels the frustration but there is only so much the Board of Commissioners can do. Mr. Hale stated that he is also receiving phone calls.

### **FLEET MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS**

Josh Messmer stated that the Board asked him to explore the use of GPS tracking devices. He spoke with some other counties that use this type of system. Hendricks County was almost to the point of being uninsurable for an automobile policy. They implemented this system and it has driven down instances of unsafe driving and accidents; they are thrilled that they made the investment. Mr. Messmer looked at two systems; First Net, and Geo Tabs through Enterprise. Sourcewell has contact pricing as part of the government buying program. Based on vehicles that are under the Commissioners purview, which is approximately 177. If they start this on August 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be a prorated amount of \$25,514.55 or \$16.33 per unit per month. There is a one-time device fee of \$62.50 for each vehicle. Bryan Collier made a motion to proceed. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **AMERICAN WATER**

Jim Wisco stated that he should have information on this for the next meeting.

### **MINUTES - 5/3/21**

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the May 3, 2021 minutes. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **ANNUAL HIGHWAY REPORT**

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the Annual Operational Report as provided by the Morgan County Highway Department. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **TORT CLAIMS**

Kenny Hale made a motion to send the Newbold, Ladigo, Bigham, and Wren tort claims to the insurance company. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **TRANSFER LETTER - Parks**

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve a letter to the Auditor for a transfer of funds within the Parks & Recreation budget. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

### **FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

Kenny Hale shared a thank-you card from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade elementary class thanking the Commissioners for allowing the use of Old Town Waverly Park for their graduation celebration.

Keenan Blair, Morgan County EMS, stated that it is National EMS Week and they will be grilling

out at EMS headquarters. Mr. Blair invited anyone who wanted to attend to join them.

Mr. Blair noted that the state EMS Commission honored Donnie Warren, Brandon Shireman, and Chris McFarland for their accomplishments.

Gary Oakes, City of Martinsville, stated that the levy is being de-certified and the flood plain will be re-mapped in September. Flood insurance will rise dramatically.

Mr. Oakes stated that he felt INDOT is responding better than expected. They are working Saturdays and Sundays and even in the rain. They are scheduled to finish a month early – by Thanksgiving. Mr. Collier stated that he just wanted to clarify that they are doing their best and so is the county. It is just frustrating for everybody. Mr. Hale stated that the semis are using navigational devices instead of following the detour signs and they can only do so much.

Don Adams commended Commissioner Collier for attending an insurance meeting in the middle of tax season.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Kenny Hale made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

---

Don Adams

Attest:

---

Kenny Hale

---

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

---

Bryan Collier