

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.

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

PLEDGE – Mike Ellis, in memory of his cousin, Bobby Whitus, three tours of Viet Nam.

PRAYER – Don Adams.

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

The Honorable Pete Foley, Superior Court I Judge, was present to update the Board of Commissioners on the state of the judiciary. Judge Foley stated that after the initial interruption of services from COVID-19, they were able to maintain necessary operations by becoming virtual courts through Zoom. They will continue this through 2022. This has eliminated the need to transporting inmates for hearings unless absolutely necessary. They have been able to return to jury trials by changing some procedures. Judge Foley thanked his staff, health department, sheriff's department, prosecutor's office and clerk's office for their efforts through the pandemic.

Caseloads for 2019 totaled 6,674 and they were at 94% of capacity. Cases for 2020 totaled 5,458 and they were at 80% of cap and so far for 2021 they have 2,606 cases at 72% of capacity. Because there is a moratorium on most evictions and mortgage foreclosures, some cases are down; however, filings did not decrease as much as expected.

They began an outreach program for those with a substance abuse problem. The courts are an expensive last resort. Joni Bishop serves as the programs director to address these needs earlier by creating networks through the medical community, law enforcement and social and related service providers in the community. “Findhelp.org” is a website that someone with a housing, substance abuse, mental health, or other problem can find a source to help with the problem.

Judge Foley introduced Olivia Robbins with the Rural Justice Initiative Summer Extern Program. The program was developed under the leadership of the Indiana Supreme Court for law students that have expressed an interest in rural justice or providing legal services in a small community. Ms. Robbins has been an asset to the office and is interested in practicing law in the small community she grew up in. Judge Foley stated that he is pleased to be involved in the program. Commissioner Collier mentioned a cow tipping incident with the mayor and asked for legal advice. Ms. Robbins stated that since she is not yet a licensed attorney, she could not provide legal advice.

INDIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Scott Zarazee, Outreach Representative for the Indiana Attorney General's Office, was present to introduce himself and inform the Board and the public of the services the office provides. Mr. Zarazee stated that they can issue advisory opinions on current or newly enacted laws, they have the unclaimed property division, consumer protection, and Medicaid fraud.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Don Adams stated that they recently held an Executive Session and have a decision in the form of a Resolution to Initiate Condemnation Proceedings for the Acquisition of Certain Real Property. Mr. Adams stated that the property is in Waverly Park and the resolution states that acquiring the property through the power of eminent domain is in the best interests of the county and its citizens, the Board authorizes its attorney to commence with negotiation for the acquisition of the property and obtain appraisals, if not achieved by negotiation the Board authorizes its attorney to proceed with filing the appropriate action in court. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the resolution. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

EMA GRANT APPLICATIONS

Torie Fraker, Morgan County EMA, presented three grant applications for approval. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is providing a \$15,000 Hazardous Materials grant for a full-scale Hazmat exercise with the Morgan County LEPC; a 50% salary reimbursement grant that was \$30,000 last year, but it is unknown what the amount is for this year; and a EMPG Competitive Grant for \$40,000 to be used for a mass casualty, C-pod, and Hazmat trailer for spill supplies. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the grants. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

EMS – Zoll Lease

Donnie Warren, Morgan County EMS Director, stated that he has been working with Justin Spurk with Zoll regarding lease options. Zoll is offering a 10-year lease agreement for every piece of equipment. This could be a \$1.4 million savings over the 10 years. This should also help smaller departments because they can purchase under the county's contract. The annual fee would be \$132,658.54 or the monthly fee would be \$9,797.32. Usage numbers would increase or decrease the amount. The Board members agreed that they would like to move forward with this program and asked Mr. Warren to present a contract when it is ready.

Mr. Warren stated that they budgeted \$70,000 in each line item for PRN Paramedic and PRN EMT-basic. This amount covers vacant positions, paid time off, and on-boarding of new crew members. They are running short in these lines and need an additional \$70,000 in each line (for a total of \$140,000) for the rest of the year. With the Zoll agreement, they will be able to transfer \$50,000 to this line, leaving an additional appropriation request of \$90,000 to present to the Council. The Board wished him luck.

EMERGENCY REPORTING

Scott Hamilton, Morgan County 911 Dispatch Director, stated that they have been paying for the emergency reporting for fire departments that they dispatch. This is at approximately \$26,000 per year. They now have the ability to provide this information through a CAD link and an interface with Spillman. Mr. Hamilton would like to pass the cost for the emergency reporting back to the fire department, but replace this by paying for the annual Locution fee, which is \$11,000 and an app alert system for an additional cost. The next phase would be to install firewall switches in the fire departments that would provide a VLAN to 911 Dispatch that would help with the CAD link. Kenny Hale asked that Mr. Hamilton talk to the fire departments so they know about this upcoming expense. Bryan Collier made a motion to table this issue until after Mr. Hamilton speaks with the fire departments. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

EEO PLAN

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that several departments have applied for grants that require an EEO Plan (Equal Employment Opportunity). Ms. Fry has researched the requirements and plans from other counties and drafted a plan. Along with this plan is a EEO Utilization Report. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the EEO Plan and Utilization Report. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

INDOT LOCAL DETOUR

Josh Messmer stated that they approached INDOT regarding the roads that are deteriorating due to the closure of SR 37 and the I-69 construction and a way to remedy the situation. INDOT stated that the county is permitted one local detour route and they will set up and maintain the necessary traffic control and will reimburse the county for costs related to damage repair. The reimbursable work must be approved by INDOT prior to the completion of the work. Don Adams stated that it is unfortunate that only one road is allowed. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the INDOT Letter of Understanding. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

AMERICAN WATER

Jim Wisco stated that he should have an easement agreement for the next meeting.

FLEET MANAGEMENT SOLUTION

Josh Messmer handed out updated pricing.

2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Deb Verley stated that this was approved at the last meeting but, New Year's Day was left on the schedule from the 2021 schedule. Bryan Collier made a motion to adopt the revised schedule. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES – 7/5/21, 7/7/21

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the July 5th and July 7th, 2021 minutes. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Don Adams stated that "Much Ado About Nothing" will be presented at the Monrovia library. There will be food trucks at 7 pm and the play starts at 8.

The funeral for Donnie Sheldon will be Tuesday at 11 with calling at 10 am, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

The Bicentennial Committee has come up with a logo for the bicentennial.

Charles Thrawley, a resident in Ashland Township, asked that the Commissioners make sure the public is represented in decisions that are made regarding the American Rescue Plan and that cost analysis, task analysis and needs assessments are used to make the best use of the funds. Don Adams stated that townships will be represented and that there are funds for a consultant.

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